
DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL



Chapter 8



Help Wanted - FBI

- * The FBI needs you to use your new sociology skills to help them spot the deviant/criminal in society.
- * You will be shown a series of suspect pictures, and your job is to identify the deviant/criminal from the innocent civilian.



Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Suspect #2



Meet Serial Killer - David Berkowitz -

A.K.A. - Son of Sam Killer

Murdered 6 in N.Y. in 1970s.

Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Meet - Jeffery Dahmer - 17 Victims

Charged with murder, molestation, rape
necrophilia, cannibalism, and
dismemberment.

Suspect #2



Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Meet - Lorena Bobbitt -

Cut off her husbands penis after what she claimed was nonconsensual sex -
drove away and threw it in a field.

Suspect #2



Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Suspect #2



Meet - Warren Jeffs -

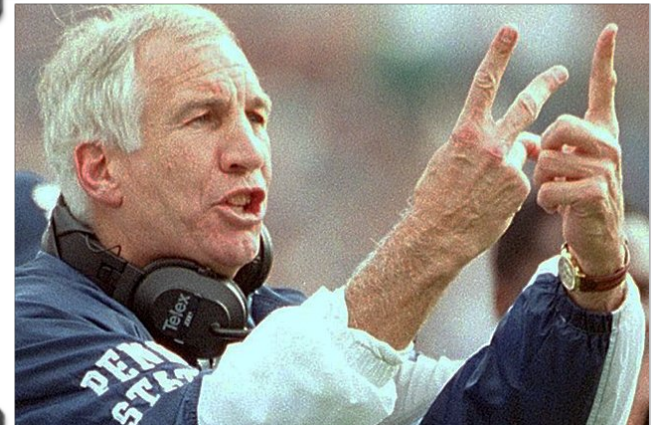
Convicted in 2011 for “rape as an accomplice” and “child sexual assault” for arranging marriages between men and underage girls as the leader of a radical Mormon sect.

Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Suspect #2



Meet - Jerry Sandusky -

Serving 30-60 years in prison for
involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and
several other charges.

Spot the Deviant

Suspect #1



Suspect #2



Who is the deviant?????

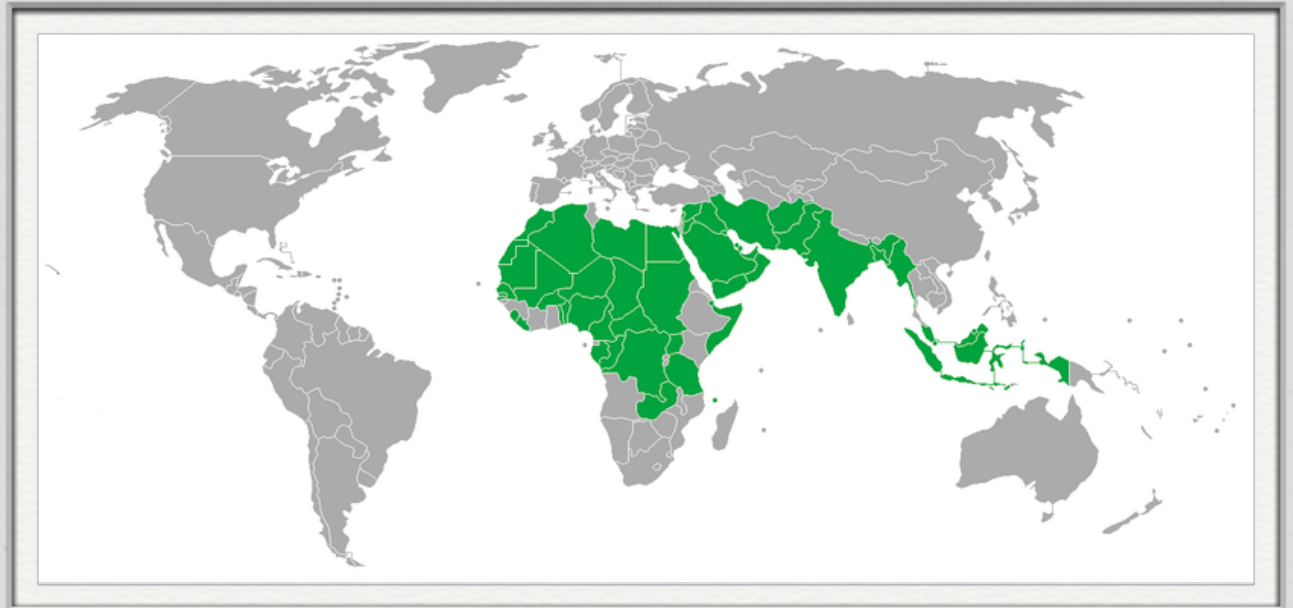
What is Deviance?

- * **Deviance** - the violation of social norms
- * How do we view the word “Deviant?”
- * **Crime** - the violation of norms written in law
- * Sociologists use the term not to be judgmental - it is any act to which people respond negatively.
- * You don't have to do anything to be seen as deviant = you may have a **stigma** (characteristics that discredit people) - handicaps, appearance (obesity or disfigured), association with a person or lifestyle.

What is Deviance?

- * Deviance - has relativity

- * What is deviant to some is not deviant to others.



Polygamy is legal in these countries



Norms

- * Norms - make social life possible by making behavior predictable - they allow us to function daily
- * Social Order - a group's usual and customary social arrangements, on which its members depend and on which they base their lives.
- * Social Control - a group's formal and informal means of enforcing norms



Sanctions

- * Folkways are informally enforced, but mores cause people to become more upset
- * Negative sanctions - disapproval of deviance - range from frowns to capital punishment
- * Positive sanctions - smiles to formal awards that reward someone for following norms.

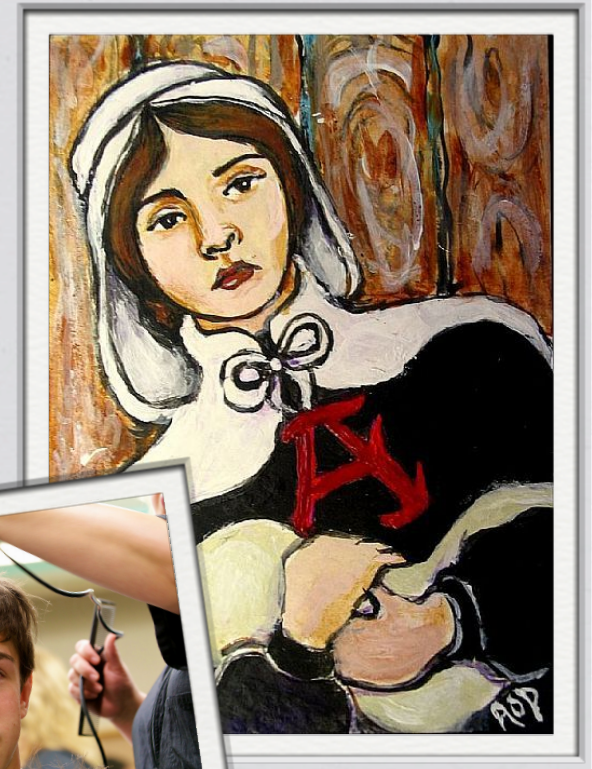


Can Deviance Be Positive?



Shaming & Degradation

- * Shaming - effective when used by members of a primary group
- * Parents may use and it is effective in small communities and is making a come back.
- * Degradation Ceremony - coined by Harold Garfinkel to describe rituals designed to remake the self by stripping away and individuals particular social identity and stamping a new one in its place.



Shaming 21st Century?



Parent Shaming Article

Two Ambridge Area students learn a lesson after skipping school Wednesday. Their parents and police officers agreed to put them to work cleaning up trash along borough streets.

Deviance - Nature vs. Nurture?

- * **Sociobiologists** - deviance can be found within the individual
 - * **Genetic predisposition** - inborn tendencies; in this context, to commit deviant acts - more likely to **commit street crime** (crimes such as mugging, rape, and burglary).
- * **Psychologists** - focus on abnormalities within the individual - they examine **personality disorders** (personality disturbances of some sort causes an individual to violate social norms)

Deviance - Nature vs. Nurture?

- * Sociologists do not agree with Sociobiologists or Psychologists
- * Sociologists look for factors outside the individual
- * Why do people commit crimes? - Sociologists would look at the external influences - socialization, subcultures, and social class.
- * How can you look for a constant in people to explain deviance if what is deemed a deviant act is relative from one society to another?

Theories - Symbolic Interaction

- * Symbolic - interpretation of what we learn
- * Differential Association Theory - Edwin Sutherland's term - learn deviance from those with whom you associate
- * Different groups give us messages about conformity and deviance = conflict and tilt more one way
- * Family is important and makes a big difference (almost half of people in jail have had a family member that has served time)
- * Friends, Neighbors, & Subcultures - why we want to live in good neighborhoods
- * Are we a prisoner to our groups? - Symbolic Interactionists argue NO - we make our own decisions

Theories - Symbolic Interaction

- * Control Theory - Walter Reckless's theory - strength of inner and outer controls - they work together against deviance
- * Inner controls - internal morality - conscience, religious principals, right & wrong + fear of punishment, integrity and want to be “good”
- * Outer controls - people (family, friends, police..) who influence us not to be deviant
- * The stronger our bonds are with society (attachments, commitments, involvements & beliefs) = more effective inner control = more self control - Parents help to make this happen

Theories - Symbolic Interaction

- * Labeling Theory - if you are labeled or treated as a deviant you will become deviant - neutralization and rejection of labels - inviting labels (NPR Story - [Click to listen](#))
- * Most people resist the negative labels others pin on them - even people that are deviant.



Theories - Symbolic Interaction

* Labeling Theory - Sykes and Matza found that boys used five **techniques of neutralization** - used to deflect society's norms - many people use them to help them sleep at night

1. Denial of Responsibility - “accident” - “I’m the victim”
2. Denial of Injury - “no one got hurt” - “borrowed that car”
3. Denial of Victim - “avenger” - “stole from a crook so o.k.”
4. Condemnation of the Condemners - “police are corrupt” - “teacher had favorites”
5. Appeal to Higher Loyalties - “I had to help my friends/gang”

Theories - Functionalism

- * Functionalism - deviance serves a purpose in society
- * Durkheim - said deviance is functional for society and contributes to the social order. 3 Main Functions:
 1. Clarifies moral boundaries and affirms norms - moral boundaries are challenged by deviant acts and punishment of such affirms
 2. Promotes social unity - when deviance is punished - the group affirms the rightness
 3. Promotes social change - if boundary violations gain enough support = it may become acceptable - group may rethink/revise

Theories - Functionalism

- * Strain Theory - crime is natural - if you can't achieve goals set by society through normal means, you do it through deviance
- * cultural goals - legitimate objectives held out to the members of society (wealth / higher status)
- * institutionalized means - the legitimate ways of achieving success/cultural goals - not everyone has equal access to them = frustration or strain
- * Four Deviant Paths: Innovators / Ritualism / Retreatism / Rebellion

4 Deviant Paths

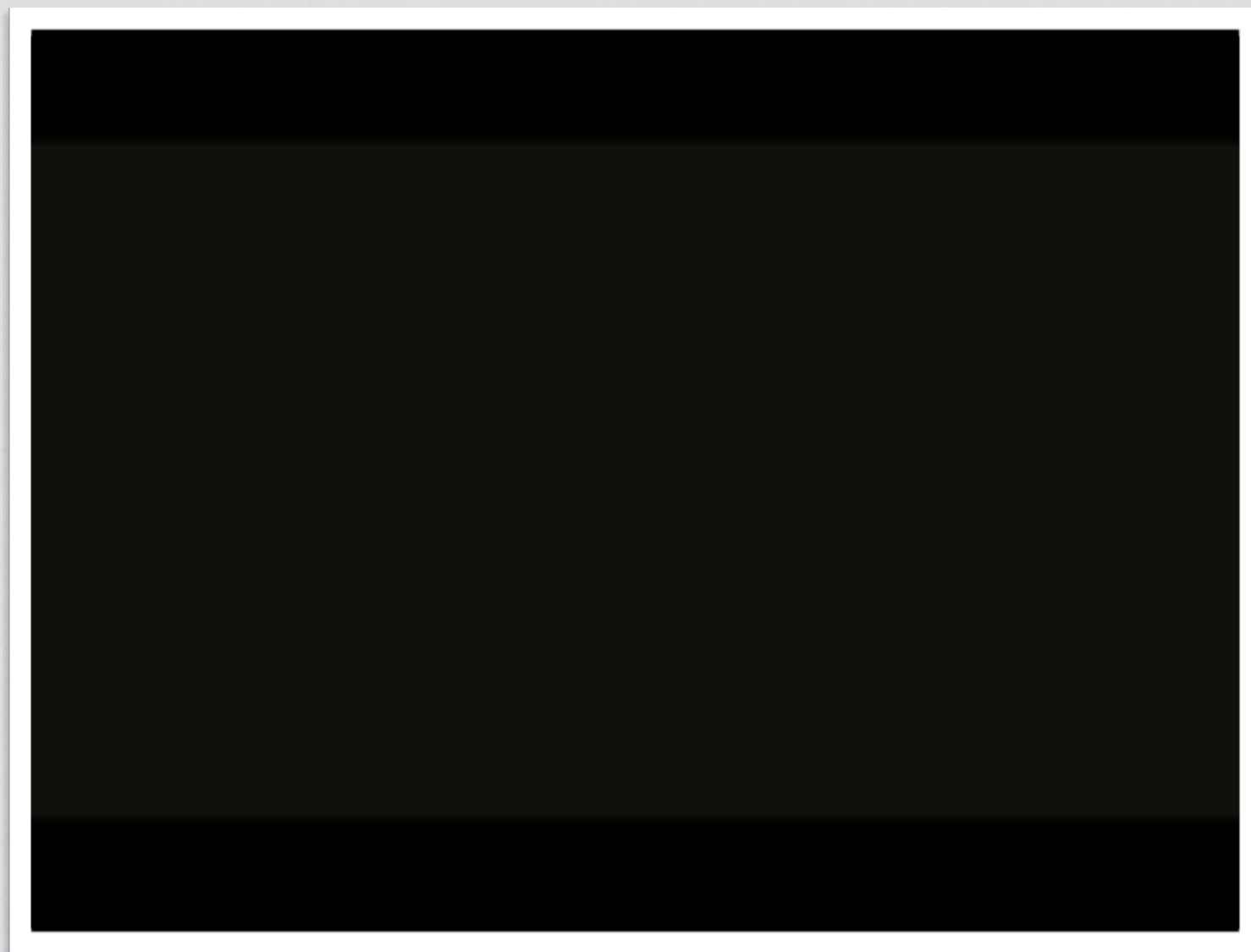
1. **Innovators** - people who accept the goals of society but use illegitimate means to try to reach them. Crack dealer - accepts want for wealth, but rejects legitimate avenues
2. **Ritualism** - ritualists have given up on getting ahead at work, they survive b following the rules of their job. Teacher that is burnout, and lacks enthusiasm.
3. **Retreatism** - reject both the cultural goals and the institutionalized means of achieving them. Drop out of pursuit of success with drugs or alcohol.
4. **Rebellion** - convinced that society is corrupt, rebels and rejects both society's goals and its institutionalized means.

Theories - Functionalism

- * Illegitimate Opportunity Theory - success = possession of goods - depends on social class - opportunity to achieve society's goals/prestige
- * Street Crime - the poor want to own things, but the school system often fails - doors close and other open = illegitimate opportunity structures = robbery, burglary, drugs, prostitution = "hustlers" - they become the role model for the poor (biggest concern)
- * White-Collar Crime - different illegitimate opportunities call to more privileged social classes - cheat systems - embezzle money
- * Corporate Crime - by executives to benefit their company - rarely taken seriously even if it causes death (Firestone didn't recall faulty tires = 200 American deaths)
- * Crime is on the rise for women because of their change in social location.

Theories - Class Conflict

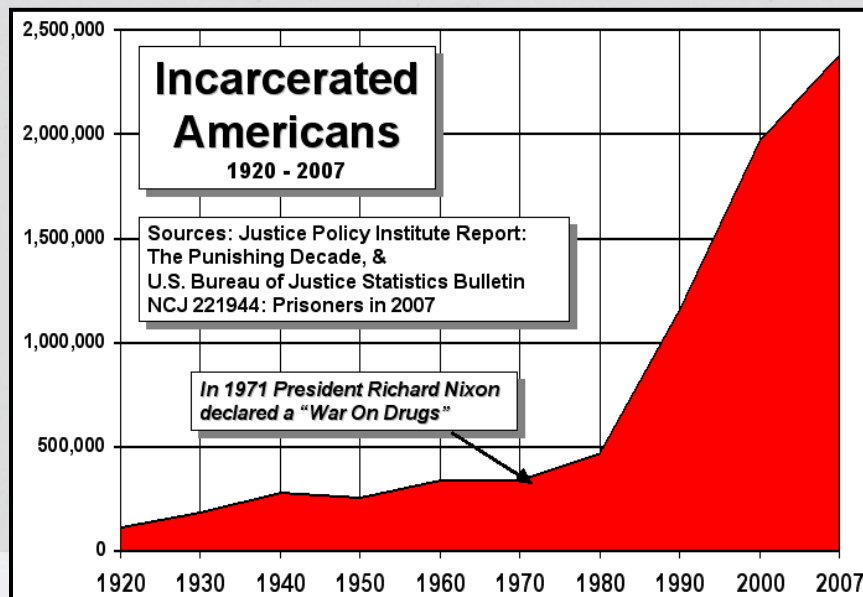
- * Small penalties that are imposed for crimes committed by the powerful are typical of a legal system designed by the elite (capitalists) in order to keep themselves in power, to control workers, and stabilize the social order.
- * Law is an instrument of the oppression of the capitalist class
- * Criminal Justice System - the police, courts, and prisons that deal with people who are accused of having committed crimes.



DEVIANCE & CRIME

Prisons in the United States

- * U.S. prison population has grown dramatically
- * Over 2 million or 1 in every 143 citizens
- * More prisoners than any other country and we have the largest percentage of our population in our jails

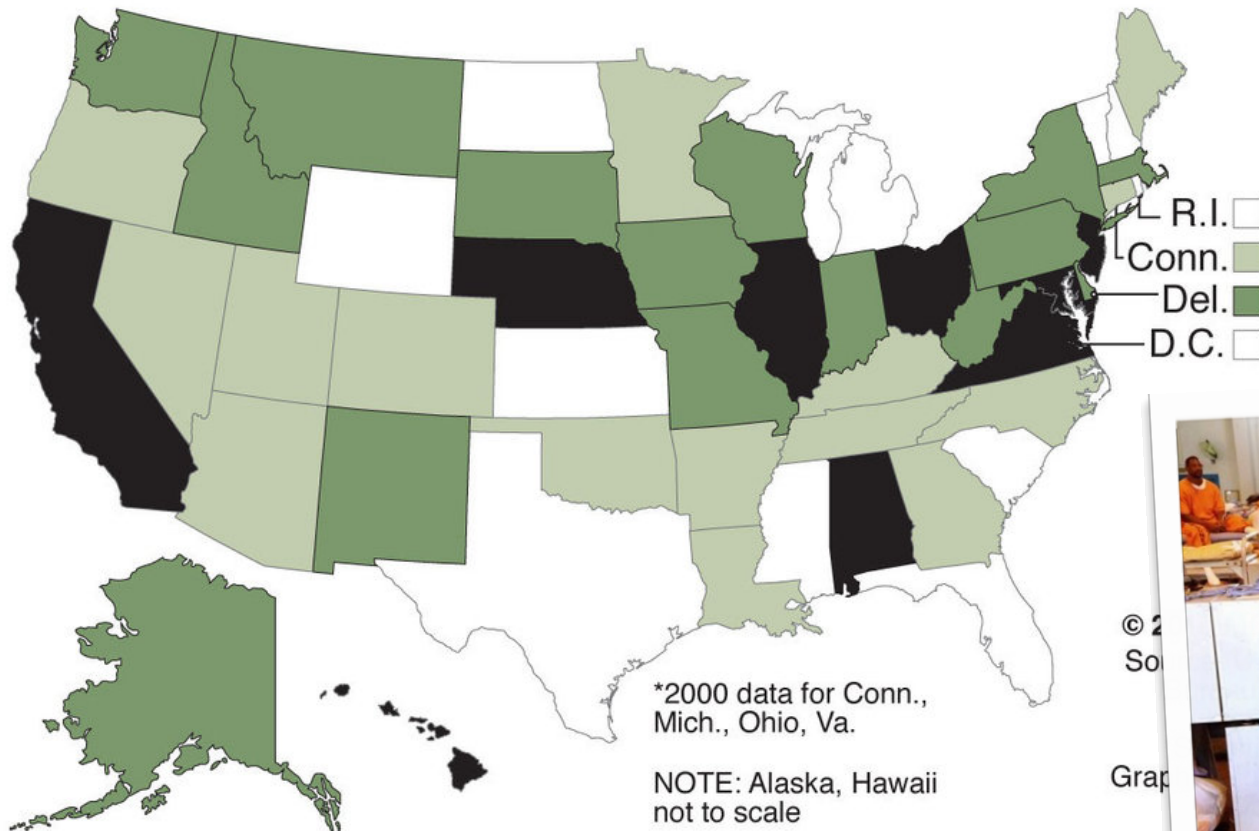


Overcrowded Jails

U.S. prisons are full

Many state and federal prisons have more inmates than they were meant to hold. Percent of designed prison capacity that is occupied, 2005*:

□ Less than 100% ■ 100-109% ■ 110-139% ■ 140% or more



* Jail overcrowding is a serious issue and some states have hired private companies to handle the overflow



Who is incarcerated?

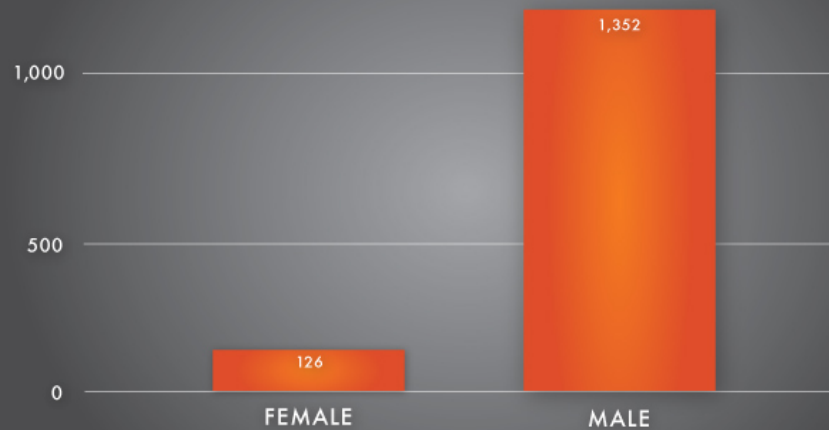


* 87% of all prisoners are ages 18 to 44

* Almost all of them are men.

U.S. INCARCERATION RATES BY SEX, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people of that sex)



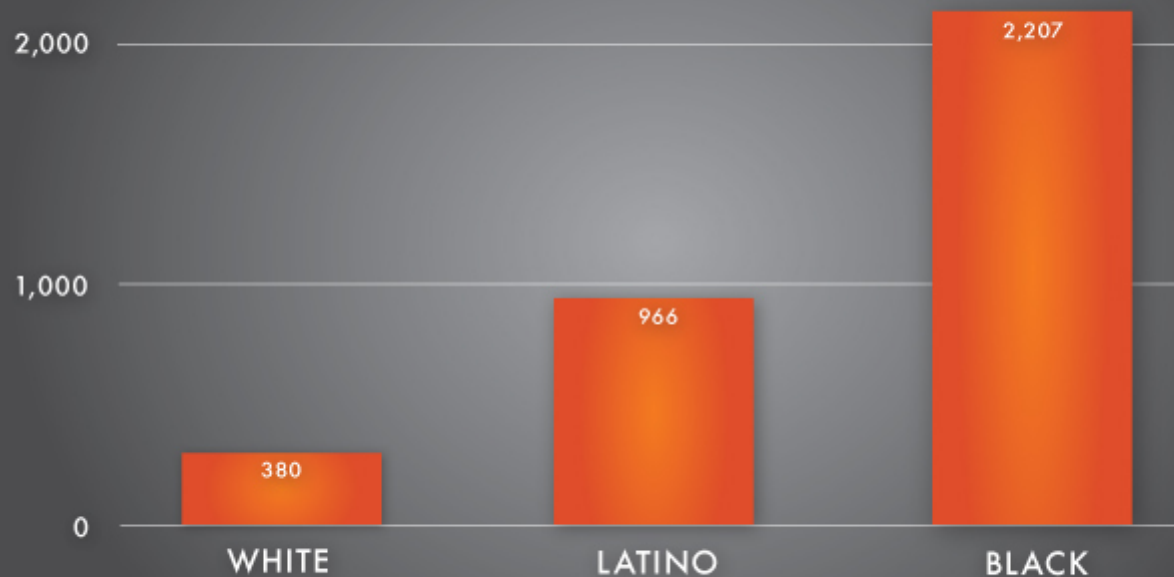
PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Source: Prepared by the Prison Policy Initiative from Bureau of Justice Statistics, Correctional Population in the United States, 2010, Appendix Table 3.

Who is incarcerated?

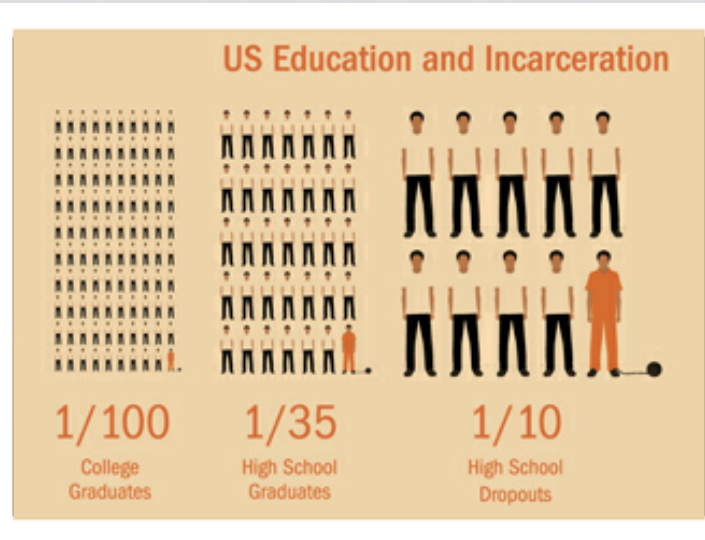
INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE & ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that group)

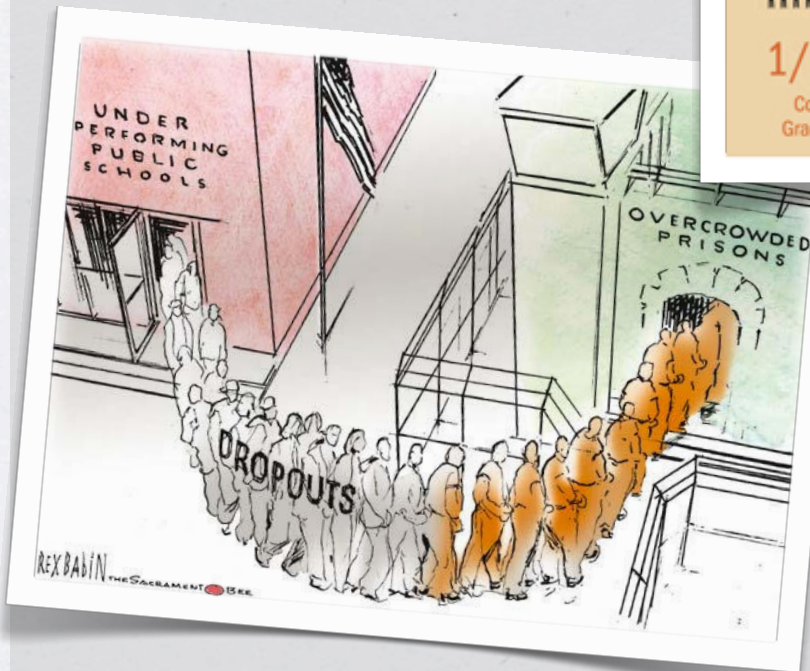


* African Americans = 12.8% of the US population but make up close to half of the prisoners in American jails. 1 of 8 A.A. males (20-34) is in prison

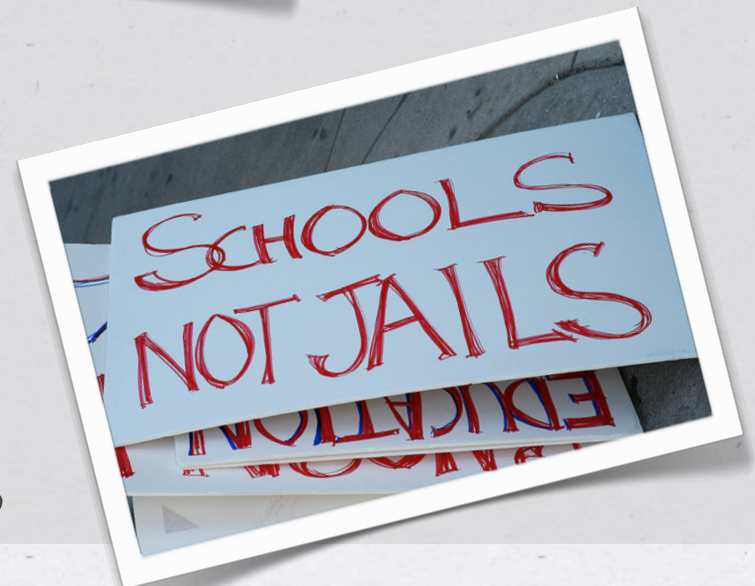
Who is incarcerated?

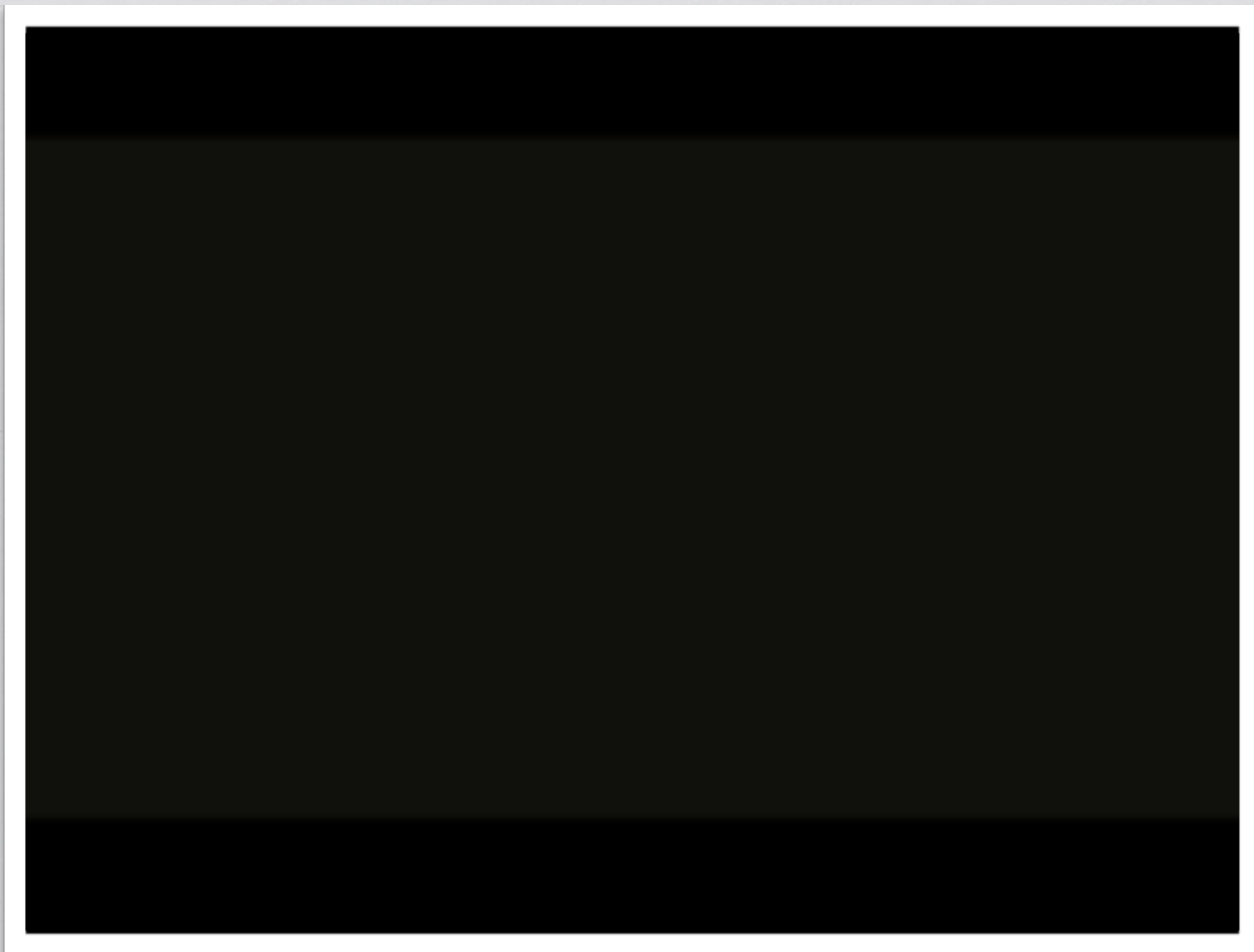


* Education is directly related to the likelihood of being incarcerated.



Where do we want to invest our tax dollars?





Third Strike

* Agree or Disagree

* Read on page 224



More Californians are serving life sentences under the 3 strike law for drug possession than for **second-degree murder, assault with a deadly weapon and rape ... combined.**

FAMILIES TO ABOLISH CALIFORNIA'S THREE STRIKES
WWW.FACTS1.COM

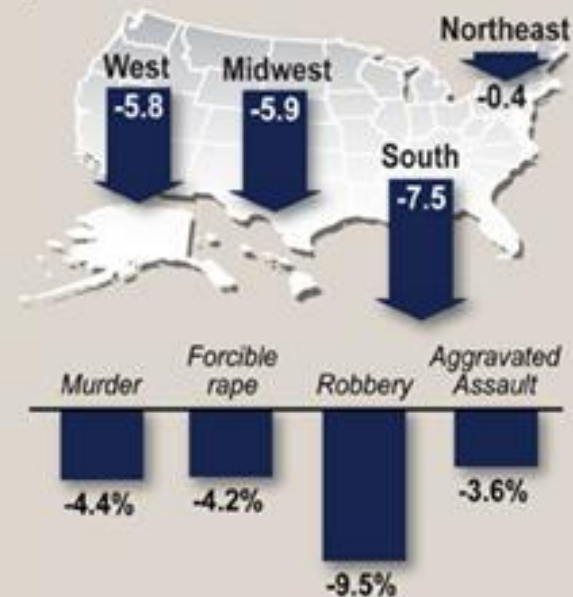
Very controversial in California

Violent Crime on the Decline

- * Third Strike Laws and reduced early releases of prisoners = crime rate has dropped.
- * Debate in Sociology - Does getting tough on crime make a difference in the crime rate?
- * Some say it is higher employment, drop in drug use etc... not tough penalties

Violent Crime: By the Numbers

According to 2010 preliminary stats, reported violent crimes fell overall for a fourth year in a row.

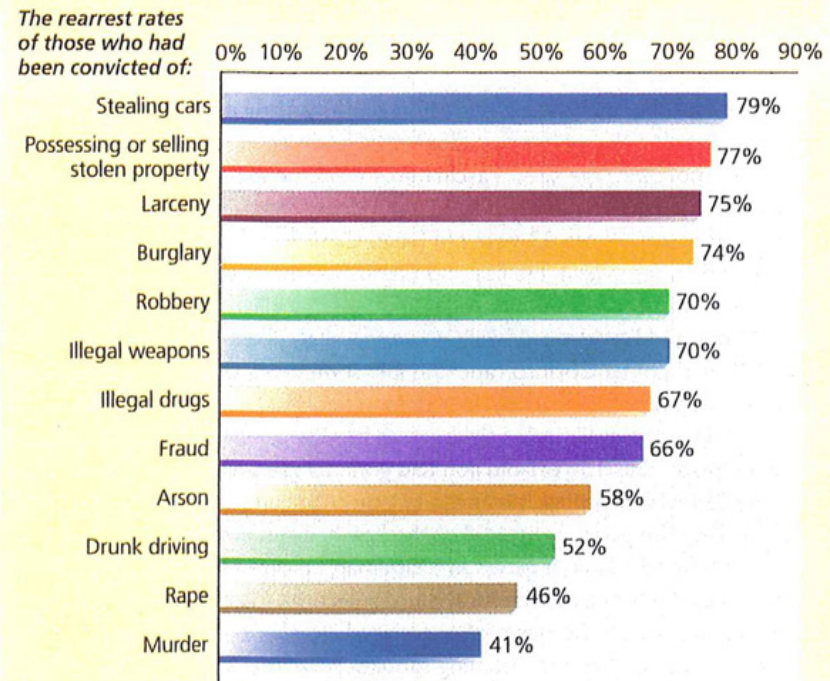


Recidivism

- * Prisons fail to teach inmates to stay out of jail
- * Recidivism rate - the percentage of former prisoners who are rearrested - very high
- * Violent crime offenders have a 2/3 rearrest and half end up back in prison

FIGURE 6.3 Recidivism of U.S. Prisoners

Of 272,000 prisoners released from U.S. prisons, what percentage were rearrested within three years?



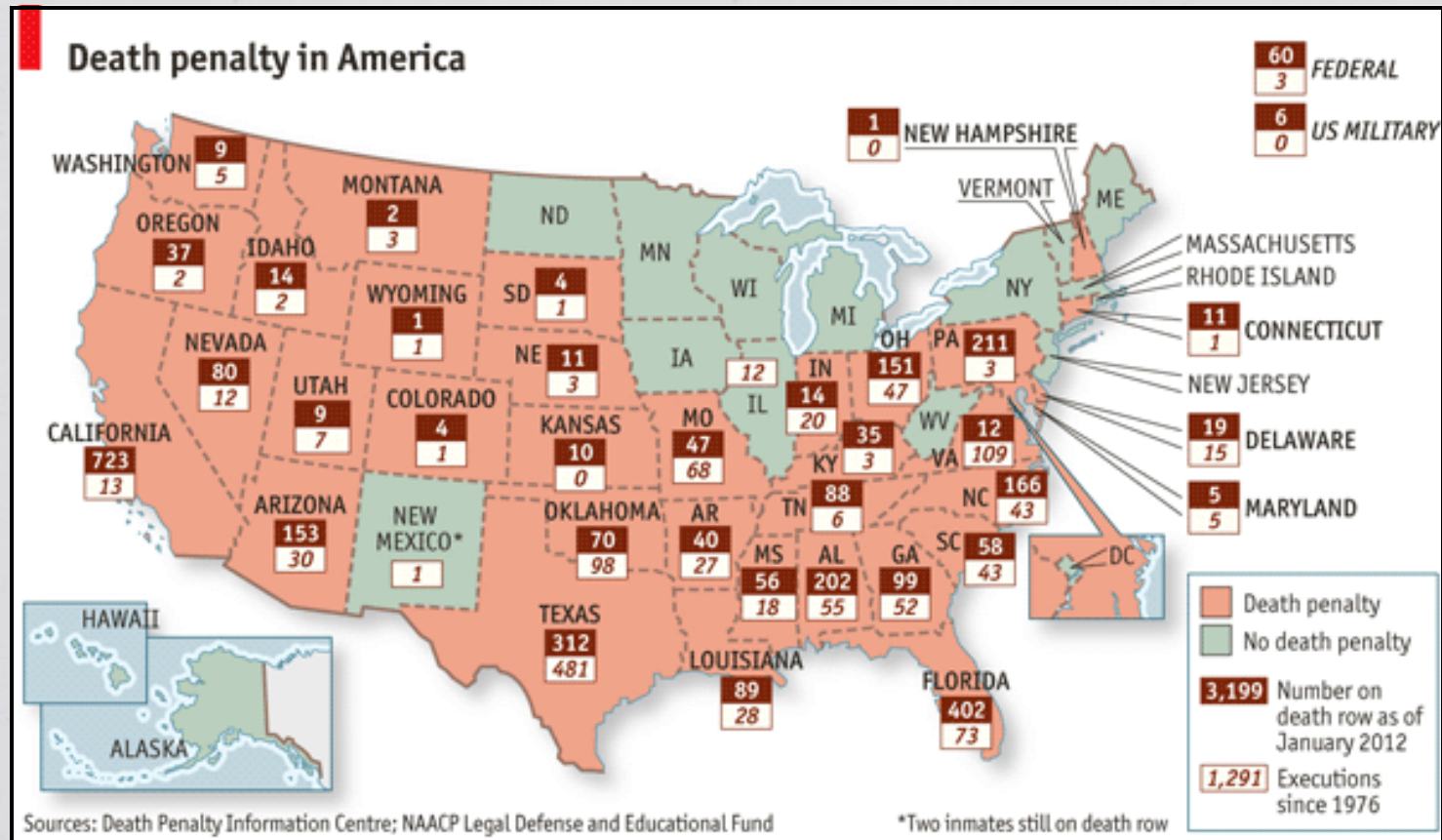
Note: The individuals were not necessarily rearrested for the same crime for which they had originally been imprisoned.

Source: By the author. Based on *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2003*: Table 6.50.



The Death Penalty

* Capital Punishment - the most extreme measure the state can take.

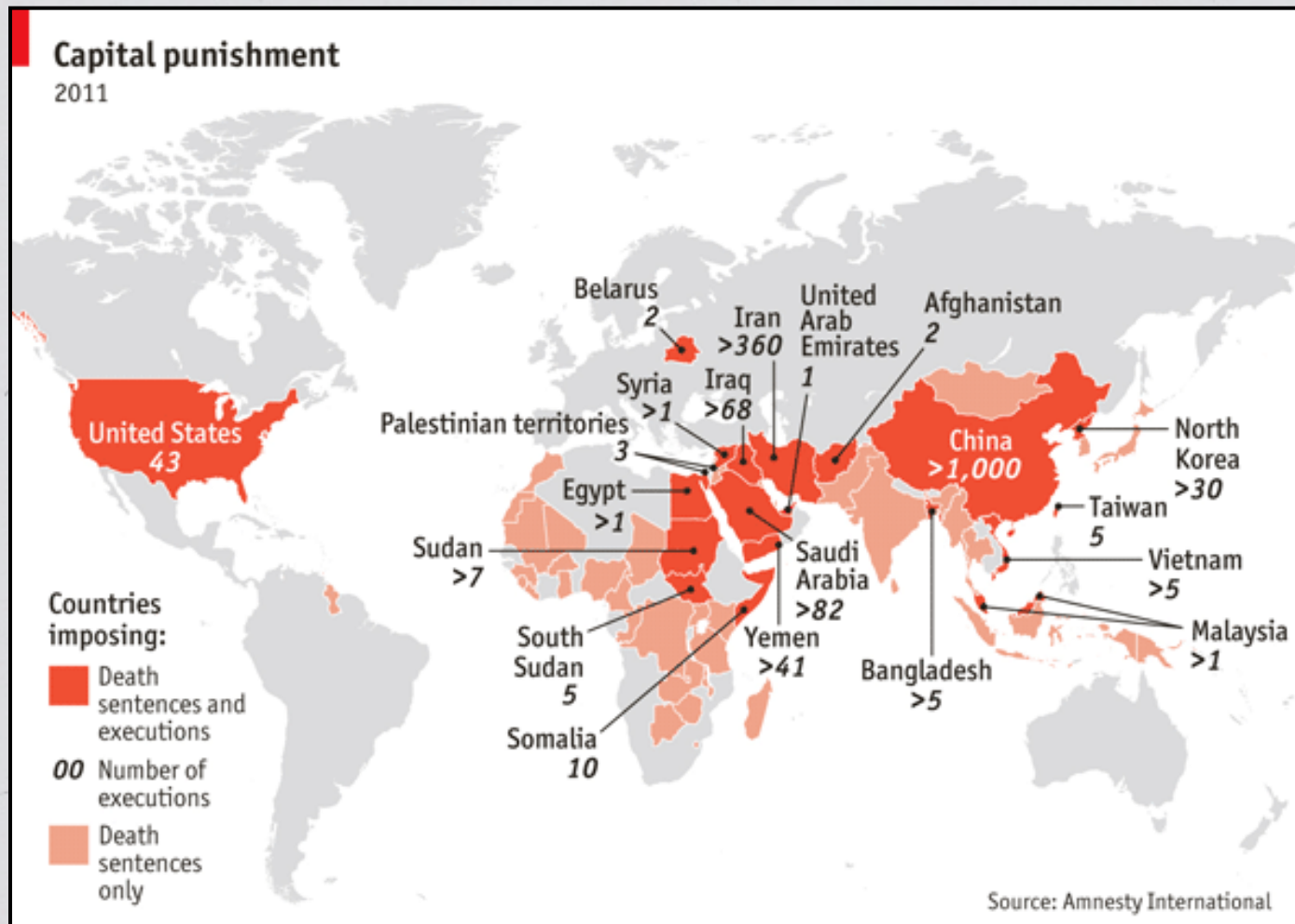


Death Penalty Bias?

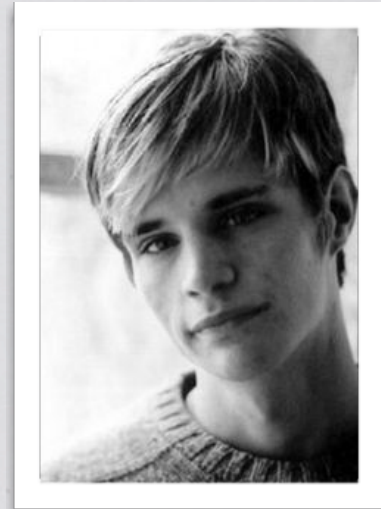
- * Controversy abounds (DNA has proven errors).
- * Where you commit the crime...
- * **Social Class** - 51% on death row are high school dropouts.
- * **Gender** - women = commit 9.6% of murder but are only 1.6% of the death row inmates.
- * **Race** - *Furman v. Georgia* (1972) - case that stopped the death penalty since statistics found that many executed had been African American - states wrote new laws and since then 67% have been white and 33% African American



Nations Using Death



Hate Crime



- * Read about Matthew Shepherd
- * Term born in the 1980s
- * **Hate Crime** - crimes to which more severe penalties are attached because they are motivated by hatred of someone's race-ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.
- * Today - motivation is an issue when looking at crime and can carry a more severe sentence.
- * "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." - Yoda

Medicalization of Deviance: Mental Illness

- * Medicalization of deviance - to make deviance a medical matter, a symptom of some underlying illness that needs to be treated by physicians
- * Crime is a sign of mental illness - is a sign of internal disorders/ consequences of a confused or tortured mind.
- * Thomas Szasz (renegade in psychiatry) argued that mental illness is “neither mental nor illness” - it is a physical illness that results in unusual perceptions or behavior - Ex. Depression = a chemical imbalance in the brain and drugs can be used to treat
- * Szasz sees mental illness as a myth put forth by doctors on a naive public.

Homeless & Mentally Ill

- * Mental Illness or rejection by society? - living on the street is dangerous (even in shelters), hygiene slips, people refuse to talk to you and you become more and more withdrawn.
- * Living on the street can cause mental illness. Mental illness can cause homelessness, homelessness can cause mental illness. = they are reciprocal



Humane Approach

- * Can deviance be eliminated?
- * Sociologists would argue NO.
- * Can we take a more humane approach?
- * Jails are filled with poor and unwanted (discriminated by class, race and gender). Care for the mentally ill is an issue.
- * THERE IS NO CLEAR ANSWER...but we can try to prevent deviant behaviors we find harmful to others and cope with those that are not.

